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C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 005775

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/01/2016

TAGS: PREL PGOV IS LE JO

SUBJECT: TFLE01: MORE PROTESTS AND ANGER OVER LEBANON

REF: AMMAN 5745

Classified By: Ambassador David Hale for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

¶1. ( SBU ) Two-thousand protested outside the UN,s Amman offices July 31, burning Israeli and U.S. flags. The demonstration was organized by the professional associations.

According to local media, slogans and banners denounced the UN and Arab leaders and called for the expulsion of the Israeli and American ambassadors.

¶2. ( C ) Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies Abdul Hadi Majali told Ambassador that some members of Parliament ) after obtaining Majali,s clearance - attended the UN demonstration to &avoid leaving it in the hands of radicals.<sup>8</sup> Majali claimed that the MPs left the demo when the crowd started calling for Jordanian Army support for Lebanese &resistance.<sup>8</sup>

¶3. ( U ) Another 1000 protesters at the University of Jordan denounced Israel and the U.S. Some of the demonstrators scuffled with University security; there were no injuries or arrests.

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Demands for the Recall of Jordan,s Ambassador from Tel Aviv  
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¶4. ( U ) Editorials and opinion pieces in the Jordanian media are expressing continuing anger about the situation in Lebanon. Even the elite-oriented English-language Jordan Times, which rarely goes against government policies, advocated in its unsigned lead editorial August 1 the immediate recall of the Jordanian Ambassador from Tel Aviv.

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IAF Fatwa Calls for Jihad  
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¶5. ( U ) The Islamic Sharia Scholars, Committee of the Islamic Action Front issued a fatwa calling on Jordanians to support &the jihad of Hamas and Hezbollah.<sup>8</sup> The fatwa accuses &Israel and the U.S. of seeking to eliminate resistance in Lebanon, Palestine and Iraq.<sup>8</sup>

¶6. ( C ) Comment: Even as resentment at Israeli operations and U.S. policy simmers, senior levels of the GOJ tell us they are confident they can ride out public unhappiness and maintain the GOJ,s current position, provided there is publicly visible movement toward a ceasefire.

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<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/nea/amman/>  
Hale